

Consideration of Change in Mission Statements for USC Salkehatchie, Aiken Technical College, Florence-Darlington Technical College, and Tri-County Technical College

Proposed Modifications to Institutional Mission Statements

Five institutions have proposed changes to their mission statements for Commission consideration. The institutions,

USC-Beaufort,
USC-Salkehatchie,
Aiken Technical College,
Florence-Darlington Technical College, and
Tri-County Technical Colleges

have submitted revised statements (attached) for approval in accordance with Commission requirements. While the changes tend to reflect minor adjustments made to acknowledge or emphasize evolutionary changes in the affected institution, USC-Beaufort's encompasses a major change in the mission and nature of the institution. The revisions in the statements are discussed below, with the complete revised statements attached. USC-Beaufort's request will be handled in a separate agenda item.

USC-Salkehatchie: The proposed change removes the phrase "developmental courses" from the list of program offerings. There are no further changes in the mission statement.

Recommendation: The Planning and Assessment Committee recommends that the full Commission approve the revised mission statement for USC-Salkehatchie.

Aiken Technical College: Aiken Technical College proposes to change the last sentence in the opening paragraph of its mission from

"The College educates and trains students to provide an effective work force to support economic growth and community stability through its focus on teaching and community service."

to "The College educates and trains students to provide an effective work force to support economic growth and community development through its focus on teaching and service."

Recommendation: The Planning and Assessment Committee recommends that the full Commission approve the revised mission statement for Aiken Technical College.

Florence-Darlington Technical College: The proposed changes reflect the growth of the institution, a growing focus on distance education, and changes in the name of the engineering programs. Specifically, in the first paragraph the enrollment has been changed from:

...”7,900 to 9,400 credit students and 8,500 to 10,000 continuing education students.”

to “...8,500 to 10,000 credit students and 12,000 to 18,000 continuing education students.”

Also in the first paragraph, the sentence “In addition the college offers comprehensive distance learning programs to more fully meet the individual educational and training needs of citizens and industry.” was added.

In the second paragraph, the program title “engineering” was changed to “engineering *technology*.”

Recommendation: The Planning and Assessment Committee recommends that the full Commission approve the revised mission statement for Florence-Darlington Technical College.

Tri-County Technical College: The proposed changes reflect a change in the name of Special Schools program and changes in the headings under the values statement. Specifically:

Under programs offered, the sentence “...custom-designed continuing education training programs for business and industry and facilities for the Special Schools program to potential employees for new and expanding manufacturing companies;” was changed to “...custom-designed continuing education training programs for business and industry and facilities for the Center for Accelerated Technology Training program to prepare potential employees for new and expanding manufacturing companies.”

Under the Values Statement, the heading for “Communication” was changed to “Relationships,” and the heading for “Community” was changed to “Networking.”

Within the “Networking” heading, the content was changed from “The College believes in working with other educational systems, businesses, and industries” to “The College believes in community and in working with other educational systems, businesses, and industries.”

Recommendation: The Planning and Assessment Committee recommends that the full Commission approve the revised mission statement for Tri-County Technical College.

COPIES OF REVISED STATEMENTS FOR EACH FOLLOW

USC Salkehatchie

Mission/Statement of Purpose

As part of the University of South Carolina, the USC Salkehatchie Regional Campus plays an important role in the lives of the citizens of the mostly rural regions of Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, Colleton, and Hampton counties, as well as neighboring areas.

With locations in both Allendale and Walterboro, USC Salkehatchie offers the citizens of its service area the opportunity for a higher education and noncredit continuing education courses. Salkehatchie offers associate in arts and science degree programs, and its primary purpose is to provide the first two years of a university education, offering USC Columbia courses taught by USC approved faculty. Further, USC Salkehatchie is committed to the education of the state's diverse citizens through its endeavors of teaching, research and creative activity, and service. After completing work at Salkehatchie, some students move on to other institutions to complete baccalaureate degree work, while others may elect to leave Salkehatchie after college study and enter the world of work. In addition to offering at least the first two years of general education instruction in many areas to enable students to earn associate degrees, the institution offers limited upper-division work at other institutions.

As a learning center of the University of South Carolina with approximately 1,000 students, the institution is committed to making University and other resources available to the majority of high-school graduates in the area. USC senior campuses and USC Columbia offer advanced courses at USC Salkehatchie, which lead toward baccalaureate degrees awarded by the senior campuses and Columbia. Additionally, graduate courses are available through the Salkehatchie Extended Graduate Campus Program under the auspices of the USC Columbia Graduate School.

Courses offered by Salkehatchie faculty are also complemented by courses offered through the University telecommunications network. USC Salkehatchie is committed to community outreach in such forms as offering selected college courses off campus at sites such as area high schools and correctional institutions and offering credit or noncredit courses as needed for area industries and residents. The institution is committed to using its own and other resources to meet the educational needs of the citizens of its service area.

USC Salkehatchie requires its graduates to possess oral and written communication, critical thinking, and computational skills. In addition, its graduates must have a grounding in the liberal arts through the acquisition of knowledge in the following areas: humanities or fine arts, social or behavioral sciences, natural sciences or mathematics. As an institution, USC Salkehatchie is committed to strength in teaching and to developing career and learning skills in its students. Additionally the institution seeks to create an atmosphere that encourages a dedication to learning throughout one's life, the search for truth, respect for cultural diversity, and freedom of inquiry.

USC Salkehatchie acts as a resource to its five-county area by serving as a focal point for the cultural and intellectual development of the area through providing various cultural, intellectual, economic, and education programs. Its academic, continuing education, cultural, public service, and recreational programs and services reflect USC Salkehatchie's purpose to enhance and enrich the communities of its service area and to improve the quality of life of its citizens.

Approved by the Board of Trustees on June 22, 2001

Mission Statement - Aiken Technical College

- **Vision**
 - We envision Aiken Technical College as a premier scientific, academic, and technical education resource with a reputation as a major economic development force in the Central Savannah River Area (CSRA).
- **Mission**
 - Aiken Technical College is a public open-door two-year comprehensive institution of higher education established to provide the citizens of greater Aiken County opportunities for educational, economic, professional, social and personal development. The College educates and trains students to provide an effective work force to support economic growth and community development through its focus on teaching and service.
- **Purpose**
 - Consistent with its mission and values, Aiken Technical College is dedicated to achieving the following **institutional purposes** in an exemplary manner:
 - Secure the resources needed to support a projected annual enrollment of 3,500-4,500 credit students and 10,000-12,000 non-credit students.
 - Offer associate degree, diploma and certificate programs which provide students with the knowledge and competencies necessary for initial entry into and advancement in engineering technology, industrial technology, information technology, health, environmental, business and social service careers.
 - Prepare students for transfer to four-year institutions.
 - Collaborate with secondary and four-year institutions to facilitate transition among educational entities.
- **Values**
 - ATC's core values define the College and provide the environment for all decisions and actions. These **core values** are:
 - Education - Education is the key to individual improvement and community economic development in a complex technological society.
 - Commitment to Students - Students deserve the finest instruction, resources and services to enhance their growth and development.
 - Excellence - The College promotes excellence in personnel, programs and work environment while encouraging integrity, accountability and respect for individuals.
 - Community - Partnerships which develop solutions to community challenges are important to economic vitality and quality of life.
 - Diversity - Respect for diversity is an important part of the educational process.

FLORENCE-DARLINGTON TECHNICAL COLLEGE

Mission Statement

Florence-Darlington Technical College is a post-secondary, public, two-year institution serving Florence, Darlington and Marion Counties whose primary emphasis is an affordable, comprehensive technical education. The College has an open admissions policy and annually enrolls approximately 8,500 to 10,000 credit students and 12,000 to 18,000 continuing education students. The College offers associate degree, diploma and certificate programs, responding to the educational, economic and cultural needs of a diverse traditional and nontraditional population. In addition the college offers comprehensive distance learning programs to more fully meet the individual educational and training needs of citizens and industry. The educational experience at Florence-Darlington Technical College will have an international perspective, which will enhance the student's marketability in today's global economy.

To fulfill this mission, the College seeks to develop growth opportunities that contribute to the quality of life and economic development by offering comprehensive technical education, college transfer programs, specialized training for business and industry, continuing education, transitional studies, and student development services. These services will prepare individuals for careers, advancement, and growth in health services, human services, business, engineering technology, public services and other fields. The College will provide graduates with competencies in written and oral communication, information processing, mathematics, problem solving, interpersonal skills and life long learning opportunities. To provide these services at the highest quality, the College solicits funding from public and private sources and commits itself to stewardship of and accountability for all resources.

Approved by the Area Commission January 16, 2002

Tri-County College Mission Statement

Tri-County Technical College, a member of the South Carolina Technical and Comprehensive Education System, is a public two-year, associate-degree-awarding college. Tri-County Technical College seeks to contribute to the economic growth and development of Anderson, Oconee, and Pickens Counties and of the State and to respond to the academic, training and public service needs of the community through excellence in teaching.

The College has an open admissions policy and annually enrolls approximately 4,500 to 5,000 credit students. Tri-County Technical College provides opportunities for individuals with diverse backgrounds and ability levels to acquire the knowledge and skills for employment or enhancement of employment in engineering technology, industrial technology, business, health, or public service and for transfer to four-year colleges, universities, and other post-secondary institutions. In addition to teaching technical skills, the College seeks to provide graduates with competency in written and oral communication, information processing, mathematics, problem-solving, and interpersonal skills.

The College offers the following programs:

- associate degrees in vocational, technical, and occupational areas and university transfer;
- vocational, technical, and occupational diplomas and certificates;
- developmental education and courses preparing individuals to take the General Education Development Test;
- custom-designed continuing education training programs for business and industry and facilities for the Center for Accelerated Technology Training program to prepare potential employees for new and expanding manufacturing companies;
- lifelong learning programs; and
- student development programs.

College Values

Tri-County Technical College pursues its mission based upon these fundamental values:

- Learning:** The College is committed to addressing the diverse learning needs of the community.
- Excellence:** The College is dedicated to excellence in instruction, support services, and management of human and fiscal resources.
- Accessibility:** The College seeks to provide equal access to higher education to all individuals who desire to learn and is committed to responding to the needs of a diverse student body and community.
- Relationships:** The College supports the importance of teamwork, communication, and the free exchange of ideas, both internally and externally.
- Networking:** The College believes in community and in working with other educational systems, businesses, and industries to enhance economic growth and the quality of life for the people of Anderson, Oconee, and Pickens Counties.

Revised and approved by the Anderson-Oconee-Pickens Technical Education and Training Commission,
Dec. 4, 2001